



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Special Education Directors, Application Contact Persons

FROM: Dr. Dawn McGrath, Acting Coordinator of Special Education

DATE: September 23, 2009

SUBJECT: State funding of excess costs

This memo is intended to outline the Indiana Department of Education protocol for the management of the Special Education Alternative Program Account.

The budget bill for fiscal year 2010 and 2011 provides for an appropriation of \$24,750,000 in each fiscal year. The program absorbed a budget cut of \$1,900,000 in each year from the previous biennial budget.

To manage those funds effectively so that the Department of Education can assist in the funding of excess costs and continue to be a resource for services provided in our communities, the program has looked at the historical allocation of these funds between residential and non residential services and the total number of children served by each type of service.

This analysis will result in the following guidelines:

- 80% of the appropriation, or \$19,800,000, will be set aside to fund residential services for children
- 20% of the appropriation, or \$4,945,000 will be set aside to fund non residential services for children

It is important to understand that with the state's limited resources, the Department of Education must be fiscally accountable to the citizens of Indiana by serving as many children as possible within the confines and limitations of the state budget. Alternative state funding is not available.

As the year progresses, the Department of Education may reevaluate the allocation of the resources and review the option to redirect its priorities.

Appropriate school administrators could assist the Department of Education in this mission by closely reviewing student application for both need and type of services requested so that the fund can be utilized in the most effective manner.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have questions, please contact Susan Reimlinger, Applications Supervisor, Differentiated Learners, at 317-232-0565 or sreimlin@doe.in.gov